

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on p.10 at line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

In the case in which the possible symbols s conform to an 8-PSK symbol constellation, as explained in co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. ~~To Be Determined, Howrey Dkt. No. 01827.0049.00US00~~ 09/815,149, which is hereby fully incorporated by reference herein as though set forth in full, a branch metric for a branch in the trellis corresponding to a received symbol r and a hypothesized symbol s may be expressed as follows:

$$\frac{rs^* + r^*s}{2\sigma^2} \quad (9)$$

where $*$ indicates the complex conjugate operation, r and s are both complex symbols, and σ^2 is the variance of noise introduced due to transmission through a communications channel.